

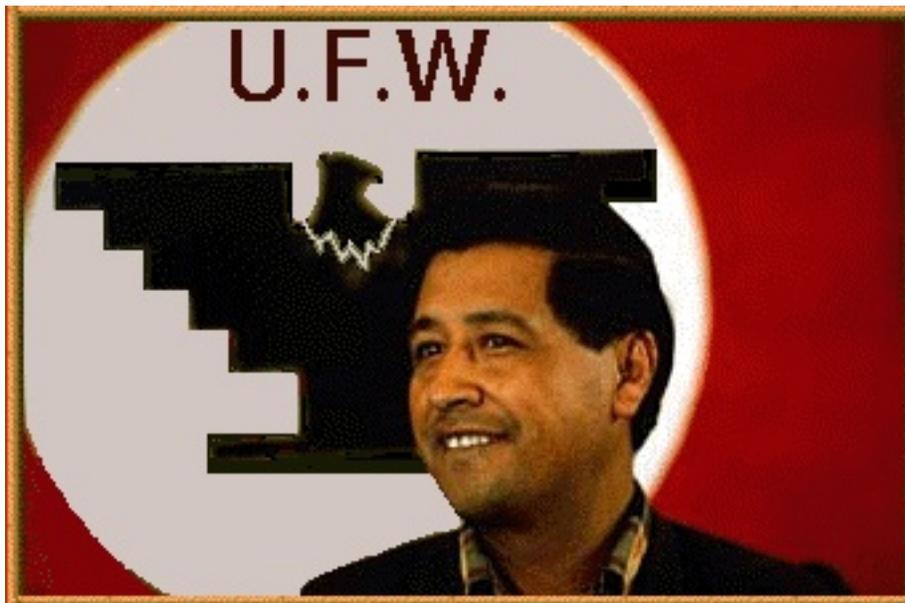
DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
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## CESAR CHAVEZ NATIONAL MONUMENT, Phase 2

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE: THERE IS A REQUIRED STUDIO FIELD TRIP DURING ZERO WEEK (September 22-26, 2014)**

**MORE INFORMATION BELOW UNDER "SITE VISIT"**



### ***INTRODUCTION***

In October 2012, President Obama established the Cesar Chavez National Monument, in Keene, California, approximately 30 miles southeast of Bakersfield. Using the authority vested in the President by the 1906 Antiquities Act, through this action the President recognized Chavez as the most important Latino leader in the United States during the twentieth century. César Chávez led farm workers and supporters in the establishment of the country's first permanent agricultural union. His leadership brought sustained international attention to the plight of U.S. farm workers, and secured for them higher wages and safer working conditions.



Under the leadership of César Chávez and others such as Dolores Huerta and Larry Itliong, along with support from millions of Americans, the farm worker movement joined forces with other reform movements to achieve unprecedented successes that greatly improved working and living conditions and wages for farm workers. During the 1970s the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) grew and expanded from its early roots as a union for farm workers to also become a national voice for the poor and disenfranchised. The enduring legacies of César Chávez and the farm worker movement include passage of California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, the first law in the U.S. that recognized farm workers' collective bargaining rights.

***CESAR CHAVEZ NATIONAL MONUMENT (CECH)***

The Cesar Chavez National Monument (CECH), also known as Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz, is a partnership between the National Park Service and the National Chavez Center. As one of the newest units of the National Park System, CECH is at the very earliest stages of its planning and management as a resource for all Americans to visit, enjoy and learn from, while also protecting its important natural and cultural resources for the benefit of future generations.



Cesar Chavez National monument is a 107-acre site located in Tehachapi Pass, situated in the Tehachapi Mountains—a transverse range separating the Central Valley of California on the northwest, and the Mojave Desert on the southeast. The monument is located northeast of the town of Keene, at the confluence of the Tehachapi and Tweedy creeks to the northwest end of the property and the confluence of Tehachapi Creek and Water Canyon Creek at the southeast end of the property. A ridge—approximately 2,900 feet in elevation crosses the central portion of the monument. Runoff waters flow both southeast and northeast of the ridge and drain into Tehachapi Creek.

The authorized boundary for the monument follows the northeast side of Tehachapi Creek. This creek flows generally northwest to southeast through a draw located between the town of Keene and the boundary of the monument. An active Union Pacific Railroad line wraps around the north and east boundaries of the monument, connecting to the Tehachapi Loop a few miles to the southeast of the monument.

Buildings and structures on the property today reflect several periods of development that have occurred during the history of the property, including subsistence activities by native peoples, local ranching, a county quarry, a California State hospital, and its national significance as the home and workplace of Cesar Chavez and the farmworker movement. Land use today reflects the spatial organization and infrastructure from many of these land uses, including an entry and arrival area in the southeast portion of the property; the visitor center, grave site and memorial garden area as a public access area; a residential and administration core area generally located in the central developed area of the monument; Villa La Paz , a meeting

center located in the northeast corner of the property; and several utility structures such as garages, storage structures, holding or settling ponds, a water tank, radio equipment, a pool, and utility roads, generally scattered in the western portion of the property.

A few remnant features and foundation ruins also remain in the far northern end of the property. These may relate to one or more of the earlier uses of the property. To our knowledge, none of these features have been documented or evaluated.

### ***STUDIO PROGRAM***

This studio will address **two key and important activities**, in close cooperation with both NPS and the National Chavez Center.

1. We will document and record four separate sites within this historic landscape, building on previous studio work completed Fall, 2013, and additional cultural landscape inventory work completed by NPS during the summer 2014. This work will conform to established NPS cultural landscape guidelines, and will add to the **baseline inventory of cultural landscape features** that contribute to the significance of this National Historic Landmark. These will be small group projects.

2. We will develop design proposals for four different sites within the National Monument.

- the entry zone: *how can this be an informative and welcoming area, while maintaining it's historic character? What elements need to be added/deleted, and how can visitors initially understand their way around the national monument?*
- the area around community housing (where we will stay during our site visit): *this is an area of changing use, and an area where overnight visitors will stay. How can it be a community within a community?*
- the area around the historic Chavez home (still occupied by Mrs. Chavez): *what should be done to preserve and restore this area to it's historic 'condition,' and how can this be done while respecting the on-going residency of Mrs Chavez?*
- the area near Villa La Paz, a conference center run by the National Chavez Center: *this area once included a community garden, initiated by Cesar Chavez. How can this idea be brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, while protecting its historic character?*

These will be individual design projects. Additional information about each site will be discussed during the field visit in September.

The focus of this design studio is to conduct historical research and document the land use history of the four sites, and based on this research, design sites that integrates the national significance of the property in the larger environmental history of earlier layers.

In addition the studio will consider and include:

- NPS policies, procedures and guidelines
- Design precedents, both within and outside of the parks
- Contexts at multiple scales
- Various materials
- Appropriate modes of representation
- Design at multiple scales

### ***STUDIO GOALS***

The studio has three broad goals:

1. *Understand the current landscape conditions and resources at CECH, and provide detailed documentation of these resources at the four sites.*
2. *Develop broad visions and detailed plans for the sensitive and appropriate design of each of the four sites at this important cultural landscape, with particular respect for its history and continued use by both residents and visitors.*
3. *Closely coordinate these efforts with our project partners at the National Park Service and the National Chavez Center.*

### ***STUDIO PARTNERSHIP***

This studio is being directly supported the National Park Service in coordination with the National Chavez Center. We will meet with NPS staff as well as representatives of the NCC. These partners include Ruben Andrade, superintendent, Cesar Chavez National Monument; Monica Parra, director, National Chavez Center; Paul Chavez, president, Cesar Chavez Foundation; and Vida Germano, cultural landscapes inventory coordinator, National Park Service Western Region, San Francisco.



### ***SITE VISIT***

There is a **required** studio site visit during the week of September 22-26, 2014. The exact dates for this trip are still being discussed but it will be within this timeframe.

We will fly from Eugene to Los Angeles, then drive from LA to Keene, CA, approximately 3 hours north.

NPS will provide funds to cover all travel, lodging and meals while on the site. We will stay on site at the National Chavez Center. Each student will receive a meal allowance for the week.

### ***RESOURCES***

All studio documents and resources including schedule, maps, planning documents and important websites will be posted to the course folder on the AAA Server.

### ***EXPECTATIONS***

In addition to the usual requirements of studio participation and timely project completion, the field trip to the site is **required**. Studio schedule and format for submission of final work will be discussed in studio. All work will be submitted in both digital and analog formats.

This is a rare opportunity to directly impact the future of a new unit of the National Park System, learn about a great American, and develop skills in cultural landscape work and site design. The studio requires a trip to the site during zero week (the week before classes begin in the fall), and all expenses will be covered by the National Park Service. Once plane tickets are purchased, however, they cannot be refunded, so please consider this requirement very carefully before registering for this studio.